

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, and 6-19 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, and 13-15 have been amended. Claim 5 has been canceled. Claim 19 has been added.

The disclosure stand objected because of certain informalities.

Applicants have now amended the specification to correct the stated informalities.

Claims 4, 6-12, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have now amended claims 1, 4, 6, 9, and 13-15 to correct the stated lack of antecedents.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 4, 6-12, and 18 as amended are free of rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of the stated claims based thereon.

Claims 1-14, and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Agata (USP 6,563,757)

On page 5 of the Office Action, item 6, the Examiner has stated that claims 5 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


In order to advance the prosecution of the present invention, Applicants have opted to combine claim 5 into claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants deem that claims 1-14, and 17-18 as amended are now free from rejection under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) over Agata (USP 6,563,757), and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the stated claims based thereon.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that all the outstanding objections and rejections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn and that the Examiner pass all the pending claims to issue.

Should the Examiner have any suggestions pertinent to the allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,
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